

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DOCUMENT: Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Wabash River Watershed, Ohio, USEPA, Region 5, Chicago, Illinois

AGENCY: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the EPA document identifying segments and associated pollutants of nitrates/nitrites, phosphorus, and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in the Wabash River, in Mercer County, Ohio, and requests public comment. The location of the load allocations are Stony Creek to Beaver Creek (headwaters to above Beaver Creek) and Wabash River (downstream from Beaver Creek to mouth). Hard copies are available at: Mercer County Library, 303 N. Main, Celina, Ohio, Coldwater Public Library, 305 W. Main, Coldwater, Ohio.

The TMDL has been developed to attain water quality standards and designated uses established for the Wabash River. Ohio identified segments and pollutants and prioritized them for TMDL assessment. TMDLs specify the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality standards. Based upon that maximum amount, TMDLs allocate both pollutant loads to sources and a margin of safety (MOS). In this way, the TMDL process links the development and implementation of control actions to the attainment and maintenance of water quality standards and designated uses. This TMDL is a variation in approach from the traditional TMDL because it has been developed by EPA, Region 5, rather than the state of Ohio.

EPA is providing the public the opportunity to review its document in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d), and 40 CFR 130.7. EPA will consider public comments in its final document.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received in writing by **March 27, 2004**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on today's notice may be submitted to Jean Chruscicki (WW-16J) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. As an alternative, EPA will accept comments electronically. The website to access this document is <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/notices.htm>. Comments should be sent to the following Internet Email Address: chruscicki.jean@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Chruscicki, Watersheds and Wetlands Branch, at the EPA address noted above or by telephone at (312) 353-1435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 303(d) of the CWA requires that each state identify those waters for which existing technology-based pollution controls are not stringent enough to attain or maintain state water quality standards. For those waters, states are required to establish TMDLs according to a priority ranking.